

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE
ANNA SAHEB M.K. PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have made any assessment of present telecom infrastructure in regard to Information Technology(IT) revolution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether present telecom facility is inadequate to IT boom; and
- (d) if so, the step mooted by the Government to enhance the facilities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) to (c): The demand for domestic bandwidth is being met by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) and international bandwidth by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.(VSNL) within a reasonable time frame. The demand for internet connections is being met by a large number of Internet Service Providers in the country. Thus the present telecom infrastructure is adequate to meet the demand of Information Technology(IT) sector.

(d) Necessary steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that adequate telecom facility is available to the IT industry. Some of these steps include:

- (i) No restriction on the number of operators in Telecom Services such as Basic, Internet, Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), Voice Mail, National Long Distance(NLD) and global Mobile Personal Communication System (GMPCS).
- (ii) Under National Long Distance Policy, there are two categories of infrastructure Providers (IP) namely IP-I who can provide assets such as dark fibres, right of way, duct space etc. and IP-II who can provide end to end bandwidth.
- (iii) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have been permitted to set up International Gateways for Internet using satellite and submarine cable medium after getting security clearance. ISPs setting up International Gateways for Internet have been permitted to sell bandwidth to other ISPs.
- (iv) A bandwidth Advisory committee consisting of eminent personalities of IT and Telecom Industry has been set up to advise Department of Telecommunications (DOT) on the steps to be taken to ensure that bandwidth is available on demand.
- (v) Setting up of National Internet back bone by BSNL to carry Internet traffic.
- (vi) Commissioning of Sanchar Sagar Project by BSNL providing large bandwidth across major cities.